

Application No.: 10/699,164
Docket No.: HT3945USNA

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REMARKS

In the present amendment, claim 1, the sole independent claim has been amended with the wording: and the aqueous conditioning solution of step (b) and the aqueous drawing solution of step (c) represent separate solutions with the solvent concentration of the drawing solution less than the conditioning solution.

Antecedent support for the new limitation is present on page 6, lines 18 to 20. Claims 1-3 remain under consideration.

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Tai et al. U.S. Patent 5,667,743 A3. The Office rejection states:

Tai et al (see the entire document, in particular, col. 3, line 7 to col. 8, line 26; Examples) teach a process of wet spinning a meta-aramid polymer as set forth in the instant claims. Tai et al teach the claimed range of draw ratio (col. 3, lines 59-63; Examples). Tai et al. teach that the fiber is drawn while in contact with a solution which, like a conditioning solution, contains water, salt and solvent (col. 6, lines 6-29).

In response to these grounds of rejection, it is respectfully submitted that Tai et al. do not disclose differing solvent concentrations for a conditioning solution and a drawing solution with a requirement that a solvent concentration of the drawing solution is less than the conditioning solution.

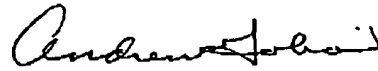
In summary the present claim wording clearly distinguishes over Tai et al. Withdrawal of the grounds of rejection is requested.

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In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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